

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 205024
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 CA-01 SCS-06 H-02
INR-10 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 TRSE-00
COME-00 OES-09 PA-02 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /080 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:R J SURBER:KC
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:A HEWITT
-----089551 141731Z /44

O 141716Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 205024

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, BF

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PROVIDED DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN ON AUGUST 14:

Q: CAN YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON THE SEIZURE OF
U.S. FISHING VESSELS BY THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT THIS
WEEKEND?

A: PATROL BOATS OF THE BAHAMIAN DEFENSE FORCE
SEIZED 10 MIAMI-BASED VESSELS FRIDAY MORNING FOR
ALLEGEDLY FISHING IN BAHAMIAN WATERS OFF BIMINI.
9 OF THE VESSELS WERE COMMERCIAL FISHING BOATS AND THE
10TH WAS A PRIVATE PLEASURE CRAFT. THE SEIZED VESSELS
WERE ESCORTED TO NASSAU BY 3 DEFENSE FORCE PATROL BOATS
WHERE THEY ARRIVED SATURDAY MORNING. THE DEPUTY
CHIEF OF MISSION AND 2 CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM OUR EMBASSY
IN NASSAU WERE PRESENT WHEN THE VESSELS ARRIVED AND HAVE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 205024

INTERVIEWED THE CREWMEN. THE CREWMEN ARE SCHEDULED TO
BE ARRAIGNED IN NASSAU TODAY. A TOTAL OF 30 PERSONS
WERE DETAINED, 7 OF WHOM ARE U.S. CITIZENS.

THE 14 YEAR OLD BOY WHO WAS WOUNDED IN THE COURSE OF
THE SEIZURE IS BEING TREATED AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET
HOSPITAL IN NASSAU. HIS CONDITION IS STABLE BUT

SERIOUS AND HE REMAINS IN A COMA. AS OF YET WE DO NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT WHICH LED TO THE BOY'S WOUNDING BY GUN FIRE.

A LIST OF THE VESSELS SEIZED HAS BEEN POSTED.

Q: WILL THE WOUNDED BOY BE BROUGHT TO MIAMI FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT?

A: A DECISION ON THAT QUESTION WOULD INVOLVE A MEDICAL DETERMINATION WHICH HAS AS YET NOT BEEN MADE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE NAMES OF THE CREWMEN WHO WERE ARRESTED?

A: NAMES OF THE CREWMEN ARE BEING WITHHELD PRIOR TO NOTIFICATION OF NEXT OF KIN.

Q: IS THE U.S. NEGOTIATING WITH THE BAHAMAS ON FISHERIES?

A: IN THE SUMMER OF 1975, AFTER THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT DECLARED JURISDICTION OVER THE SPINY LOBSTER ON ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF, THE U.S. ATTEMPTED TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT TO PERMIT CONTINUED FISHING OFF THE BAHAMAS BY U.S. FLAG VESSELS. NEGOTIATIONS WERE TERMINATED IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 205024

AUGUST WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT A FISHERIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS NOT POSSIBLE.

Q: WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR RE-OPENING THE FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS?

A: THE FISHERIES PROBLEM WITH THE BAHAMAS HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE UNSETTLED NATURE OF THE U.S./BAHAMIAN MARITIME BOUNDARY, AN ISSUE WHICH HAS ARISEN AS A RESULT OF CLAIMS OF JURISDICTION BY BOTH COUNTRIES OVER FISHERIES OUT TO 200 MILES. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON FISHERIES CAN TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE MARITIME BOUNDARY ISSUE IS SETTLED.

Q: ARE WE NEGOTIATING MARITIME BOUNDARIES WITH THE BAHAMAS?

A: (TAKE THE QUESTION.) VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, PRESS CONFERENCES, FISHING BOATS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE205024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: R J SURBER:KC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780332-0038
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780867/aaaacdqa.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6ae70d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1746853
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE
TAGS: SOPN, EFIS, SF, US
To: NASSAU
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ae70d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014